(b) if so, whether Government have formulated any programme to exploit the gold reserves; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Poor incidence of placer gold has been reported from Subansiri river in Arunachal Pradesh. A study by the Regional Research Laboratory, Jorhat and Directorate of Geology & Mining (Assam) has indicated occurence of 0.37 g/t of gold in Subansiri river, Assam at some places.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Dereservation of Minerals and Ores

2203. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that recently as many as 13 Minerals/ores which were hitherto reserved exclusively for the public sector have been dereserved by Government;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the dereservation was done with the aim to attract private sector and foreign investment for sole exploring and exploiting the dereserved minerals and ores; and

(d) if so, how far the aim has been achieved with details of the foreign investments offered in this field so far after the dereservation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) The National Mineral Policy has dereserved 13 minerals which were reserved for public sector exploitation. These minerals are iron ore, manganese, chrome, sulphur, gold, diamond, copper, lead, zinc, molybdenum, tungsten, nickel and platinum group of minerals.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The effect of these pol changes will be fully noticeable af consequential amendments to t Mines and Minerals (Regulati and Development) Act, 1957 ha been made.

Identifiction of Gold Zones by G logical Survey of India in And Pradesh

2204. SHRI MENTAY PADMA BHAM: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Geological Survey of India identi gold bearing zones in Andhra Prad

(b) if so, what are the det thereof;

(c) whether Government had c ducted preliminray survey; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) (b) Yes, Sir. As a result of s vey/exploration carried out by C logical Survey of India (GSI), a tal resource of 0.163 million ton of gold ore with an average grade 1.25 g/t to 11.39 g/t of gold in Ka palle, Bhadrampalle and Ramapu areas of Anantapur district, 4 million tonnes of gold ore with average grade of 4.0 g/t in chig gunta, Mallappakonda areas of C tor district, Andhra Pradesh, h been established.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Pr minary surveys in Avulathiapcarap block in Southern extension Kolar Schist Belt indicated an a malous auriferous zone of 500 strike length. Significant aurifer zones in chabala-vidapamakallu Ramagiri-Panakacharla schist b Anantapur district Virappallipeta near Erra doddi in Cuddapah dis have been identified based on the gional geo-chemical surveys. Sc drilling carried out in Dona block

Jonnagiri schist belt, Kurnool district established auriferous mineralisation over a strike length of 700 m.

National Mineral policy

2205. SHRIMATI ILA PANDA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Mineral Policy for non-fuel and non-atomic minerals has been formulated by Government recently;

(b) if so, what are its main objectives;

(c) whether value-added exports will be given preference over raw-material exports; and

(d) whether Government would consider giving priority to actual users of minerals while leasing out the mines to ensure a proper linkage between mining, processing, and production of end-products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main objectives of the Mineral Policy are as follows:—

(i) to explore for identification of mineral wealth in the land and in off-shore areas;

(ii) to develop mineral resources taking into account the national and strategic considerations and to ensure their aeequate supply and best use keeping in view the present needs and future requirements;

(iii) to promote necessary linkages for smooth and uninterrupted development of the mineral industry to meat the needs of the country;

(iv) to promote research and development in minerals;

(v) to ensure establishment of appropriate educational and training facilities for human resources development to meet the manpower requirements of the mineral indnstry;

(vi) to minimise adverse effects of mineral development on the forest, environment and ecology through appropriate protective measures; and

(vii) ti ensure conduct of mining operations with due regard to safety and health of all concerned:

(c) Endeavour is to encourage export of value-added items as far as possible:

(d) The Mineral Policy aims to ensured that mineral processing units should not only get an assured supply of raw-material but should also have close links with the production and marketing agencies of the mineral based products:

Selection of General Manager in NMDCL, Hyderabad

2206. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received series of complaints against selection of General Manager in National Mineral Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad;

(b) whehter recruitment rules were not followed by the company;

(c) whether Government would intervene into the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?